

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A garden weed barrier and watering apparatus comprising:

a flexible sheet of vapor-permeable material, said sheet having reinforced outer edges,

an opening in said sheet for a garden plant stem to extend therethrough, said opening formed from a flap cut from said sheet, said flap folded back upon the underside of said sheet to form a tube and openings in said sheet for garden plant stems to extend therethrough;

means for weighting said edges to secure said sheet to the ground substantially conform said edges to the surface of the ground; and

a fluid-permeable hose, tube secured to a lower surface of said sheet for delivering fluid said hose threaded through said tube to secure said hose to said underside of said sheet and adjacent said opening, whereby fluid may be delivered to ground proximate to garden plants said opening.

Claim 2 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sheet comprises a non-woven polymer film.

Claim 3 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sheet comprises a perforated sheet or a woven or non-woven textile material.

Claim 4 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sheet comprises felted fibers of thermoplastic material.

Claim 5 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said edges are reinforced by double layers of said sheet secured by means selected from the group consisting of adhesive, tape, stitching, and heat bonding.

Claim 6 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said edges have holes therein for accepting stakes or staples to provide additional retention of said apparatus against the surface of the ground.

Claim 7 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said openings are substantially rectangular.

Claim 8 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said openings are arranged in one or more substantially parallel rows.

Claim 9 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said openings are substantially circular.

Claim 10 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for weighting is selected from the group consisting of metal bars,

metal tubes, rubber bars, rubber tubes, plastic bars, plastic tubes, metal cable, rope and sand.

Claim 11 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sheet is substantially opaque.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said openings are arranged in one or more concentric rings means for weighting comprises one or more solid weights attached about the periphery of said sheet, said weights having sufficient flexibility to substantially conform said periphery to said surface of said ground.

Claim 13 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said tube further comprises means for restricting flow of fluid therethrough.

Claim 14 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 13 wherein said means for restricting comprises a flat plastic disk positioned within said tube and of sufficient external diameter to occlude flow of fluid through said tube, said disk further comprising an aperture in the center of said disk.

Claim 15 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 13 wherein said means for restricting comprises a conical flow restrictor comprising a cone having a flange projecting from the base of said cone and an axial bore through the longitudinal center of said conical flow restrictor.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A garden weed barrier and watering apparatus comprising:

landscape fabric having edge portions weighted to retain said fabric in a selected position upon the ground,
openings an opening within said fabric for receiving a garden plant[[s]], and
a water-permeable tube attached to the underside of said fabric adjacent an edge of said opening.

Claim 17 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 16 wherein said tube has segments thereof attached in close proximity to corresponding openings.

Claim 18 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 16 wherein said edge portions comprise weights secured within edge pockets.

Claim 19 (original): The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 17 wherein said openings are partially defined by respective portions of said tube.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of gardening whereby weeds are suppressed through obstruction of sunlight, and fluids are delivered to garden plants via a conduit, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an opaque vapor-permeable sheet having weighted outer edges of sufficient flexibility to conform to the surface of the ground, and
having cutting one or more openings in the sheet for garden plants to extend therethrough,

attaching a fluid-permeable conduit to the underside of the sheet and adjacent an edge of the opening to provide fluid flow to ground proximate the opening and to weight the sheet proximate the opening.

applying the sheet to an area of ground, and

directing water to the conduit for flow therethrough at intervals selected for encouraging plant growth.